



Hon. Robert T. Matsui

Member of Congress

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Robert T. Matsui

Serving California's 5th District

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MATSUI SECURES FUNDING FOR SACRAMENTO NURSE TRAINING / RETENTION CENTER

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Congressman Robert T. Matsui announced today the U.S. House of Representatives approved \$400,000 in funding to help stem the critical shortage of qualified nurses in the Sacramento area. This funding, included in the Fiscal Year 2005 Consolidated Appropriations Act, will help the Sacramento Community College's Allied Health Professions Recruitment and Retention Center provide services aimed at recruiting and developing potential nursing students.

With over 4,000 nurses needed to fill vacancies, nursing shortages in the Sacramento region have reached a critical state. To combat this, the Center will focus on the recruitment, training, mentoring and retention of underrepresented and non-traditional students into the nursing field. To tackle the shortage, the Center will aggressively market health careers to feeder high school students, offering monthly on-campus career conferences led by allied health practitioners. The center will work with CalWorks and the Sacramento Community College's One-Stop Career Center to reach into targeted communities and recruit future nursing professionals, bringing a more ethnically and economically diverse student population into allied health career preparatory programs.

"The nursing shortage gripping our city has a drastic impact on the quality of health care offered in our region," said Representative Matsui. **"By promoting programs such as those offered by the Recruitment and Retention Center, we can help direct students towards a career in the nursing field and ensure they receive the training and support necessary to keep them on the job."**

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